

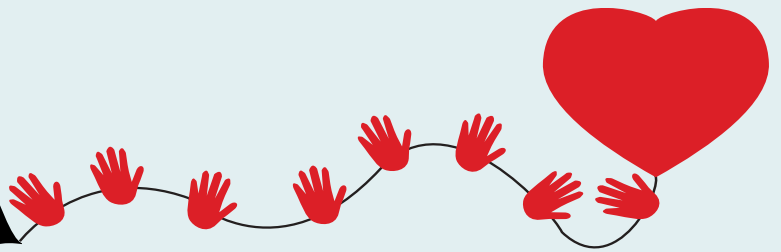


Maricopa County CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Newsletter

www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov

September 2003



Educational resources; Administrative request; Training day

As the new school year begins for our CASA children, the educational arena is one area in which CASAs can effectively advocate. As CASAs, you want to ensure that your children's educational needs are being met, that they are at a level that they can be successful in, and that, if special education services are needed, they are getting the appropriate ones. This is a large and sometimes complicated area, and we wanted to help provide some resources as you move forward in your cases and advocate for your children's educational needs.

The State Department of Education, of course, will provide information on educational services to children. Their website, www.ade.state.az.us, has information in the following areas:

- Accountability and standards
- Alternative education
- Early childhood education/prevention
- Special education
- Vocational and career education

Take a tour of the website and update yourselves on educational services for children. If you do not have access to a computer, the phone number for the Department of Education is 602-542-4361, or call your CASA Coordinator and we will print and mail information to you.

Another organization that has proven to be invaluable for many CASAs is the Center for Disability Law. This organization works to promote knowledge and ensure services for our most vulnerable citizens, our children among them. Their website, www.acdl.com, is excellent. They have an enormous amount of information and support for people who may not understand their rights and the services they are entitled to. They have a

Peer Group Meetings

Scottsdale — 1:30 p.m.
Last Wednesday of each month
Home of Mary Lou Davis

East Valley — 6:30 p.m.
Third Wednesday of each month.
Home of Joe & Vicky Orlando

Central Phoenix —
The Central Phoenix peer group meeting has been postponed indefinitely.

West Valley — 6:30 p.m.
Second Thursday of each month
Glendale Public Library
Host: Donna Spence
Call the CASA Office for addresses and phone numbers.

hotline available where an advocate will answer questions and provide information regarding special education issues, available for four hours per day, Monday through Thursday. That number is 602-274-6287. Again, ask your Coordinator for information from the website if you don't have access to a computer.

Please avail yourselves of the information these organizations can provide. We can't all be experts at everything involving our CASA children, but if we know where to go for resources and information, we can become knowledgeable about how best to advocate. And this is the time to become interested in education and in making sure your CASA children are served according to their needs.

Amazing Growth

The CASA program is growing at a wonderful rate, the numbers of CASAs are increasing, and with that, there is a

corresponding increase in the number of administrative functions that have to be performed and the volume of reports and paperwork that we process.

We strive to be as efficient as possible, and with your help, will continue to maintain a high quality of service to you, to our judges and to the State CASA office. To do so, we ask that you consider the following:

• Court Reports

Please submit your court reports at least 14 days in advance of your court hearing. Reports received within a week of a hearing are difficult for the office to process in a timely manner. If we cannot process your report due to insufficient time, you might have to give only an oral update on your case, and the judge will not have the benefit of your written report.

• Changes in E-Mail Addresses

We pride ourselves in getting the latest information to you in a most efficient manner. The e-mail system is very popular at the moment, but it is only as good as the addresses we have. If you have an e-mail address, please advise when you change to a new one. We regularly update our records, and those of the State CASA office, in order to provide instant communication to you.

Save the Date!

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003 will be the Annual CASA Day of Training. This annual event brings several great trainers to you in a one-day format. This is an excellent way to get or add to the 12 hours of continuing education training required by the CASA Program.

Please put this date on your calendar, and you'll be receiving specific information in the mail later this month.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 5, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

Tour of ACES – West Valley
(time approximate)

Sept. 16, 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Luncheon w/ Judge Scott
Durango – Room 223

Sept. 19-20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Orientation Training Weekend
AZ Supreme Court Building
1501 W. Jefferson

Sept. 25, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Post Orientation Training
Durango – Room 223

Sept. 30, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Advanced Court Report Writing
Durango – Room 223

Oct. 9, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

East Valley Crisis Center Tour
Mesa Location

Oct. 9, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Case Selection Training
Durango – Room 223

Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Annual CASA Training Day
AZ Supreme Court Building
1501 W. Jefferson

Please call the CASA Office for locations and to RSVP for all events.

CASA Contacts

Durango

3125 West Durango
Phoenix, AZ 85009
FAX - 602.506.5512

Leslie Blakley	602.506.4082
Otis R. Evans	602.506.4425
Rita Laird	602.506.4083
Laurie Laughlin	602.506.3934
Bonnie Lodato	602.506.6491
Bonnie Marcus	602.506.5221
La Donna Benner	602.506.3930
Delaine Davis	602.506.4415

Southeast

1810 South Lewis St.
Mesa, AZ 85210
FAX - 602.506.6570

Rita Flores	602.506.3935
Grace Nabor	602.506.3379

CASA Kudos

From the FCRB:

- Catherine Buckley
- James Curtis
- Gayle Fliam
- Orysia Husak
- Adele James
- Kimberly Hare
- Carolyn Gilkey
- Flo Smithiger
- Judith Pierce
- The FCRB commended CASA Harriette Lubow for "her skill in bonding with the child as well as her encouragement and support of the child."

From GAL:

The GAL's social worker commended CASA Carole Kempton, at the

FCRB stating that she and the GAL "appreciate the diligence of the CASA." The FCRB also commended Carole for her diligence on the case.

From CPS:

CPS case manager commended CASA Bob Brunson saying that "The CASA has had a wonderful influence on Rudy." Josh's foster mother commended Bob for being "very supportive" of Josh.

From LaDonna:

Thank you, Susan Smith, for sharing information on a grant available for children of abuse, Season for Sharing, which is run by *The Arizona Republic*.

Free in Tempe

For CASAs who are pinching their nickels and dimes, while trying to find a nice way to tell little Joey that there is no way he is going to the Spring Fling at Lake Havasu, here are some opportunities to help you manage and stretch your funds.

The following chart is provided by the kind folks at many activity centers throughout Tempe:

Tempe Historical Museum

809 E. Southern Ave.

- Now showing - "Fighting Fires"
- Aug. 30-Sept. 26 - Norman Rockwell's "Four Freedoms - Posters in Remembrance of 9/11"
- Opens Oct. 11 - "Reflections on Tempe Beach"

Neils Peterson House Museum

Corner of Southern & Priest
1414 W. Southern Ave.

Tempe Symphony Orchestra - 29th Season!

Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Boyle Auditorium, McClintock High School
1830 E. Del Rio Drive, Tempe

Ballet Under the Stars

Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Tempe Town Lake at Tempe Beach Park
NW corner of Mill Ave and Rio Salado Parkway
Parking: America West Airlines Parking Garage
3rd Street, West of Mill Ave

Live - The Lake Concert Series

Oct. 12, Oct. 19 and Oct. 26
Tempe Town Lake at Tempe Beach Park

Tempe Tardeada 5th Annual Hispanic Festival

Oct. 12 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
Tempe Community Complex
SW corner of Southern & Rural

For general information on the events, call: 480-350-5315.

If you have events in your area that you would like to share, please contact CASA Coordinator Rita Flores.

